UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1999/952
7 September 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 3 SEPTEMBER 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to refer to my previous letter dated 15 June 1999 (S/1999/695) addressed to the President of the Security Council concerning the incidents caused by the intrusion of North Korean vessels into the territorial waters off the west coast of the Republic of Korea.

In view of the related developments, including a unilateral declaration by the North Korean military authority on 2 September 1999 to set up a so-called "North Korean Military Demarcation Line in the West Sea (Yellow Sea)" in defiance of the existing Northern Limit Line (NLL), I have been instructed to inform you of the position of my Government as follows:

1. The NLL has been recognized by both South and North Korea since the conclusion of the Armistice Agreement in 1953 and thus remains effective as the only existing demarcation line that separates the South and the North in the Yellow Sea.

2. The NLL was reaffirmed by the South-North Basic Agreement concluded in 1992, which provides that "the South-North demarcation line and the areas for non-aggression shall be identical with the Military Demarcation Line (MDL) provided in the Armistice Agreement of 27 July 1953, and the areas that each side has exercised jurisdiction until the present time".

3. The NLL has served as the only practical security scheme in the Yellow Sea separating the forces of South and North Korea, thus contributing to the maintenance of peace and security on the Korean Peninsula.

4. For these reasons, the Government of the Republic of Korea categorically rejects the so-called demarcation line declared unilaterally by North Korea in violation of the 1992 South-North Basic Agreement. The Republic of Korea is determined to uphold the existing NLL as firmly as the Military Demarcation Line.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) LEE See-young
Permanent Representative

99-25688 (E) 070999